

**Devotional – Week 7
Water Olympics
Baptism
Devotion – 5-10 Minutes**

Today, we are going to get drenched with water...water...and more water!

I guess you could call it a “Water celebration”

But before we get started, we’re going to learn about Baptism...which is the absolute ultimate water celebration!

I know that a lot of you have questions about being baptized...and I know there are a lot of misconceptions...wrong thoughts... about being baptized.

So today, I am going to quickly answer those questions and then we are going to splish...and splash...and celebrate!

I’m sure that all of you have seen someone being baptized.

Baptism is when the Pastor places you gently under the water and quickly lifts you back up.

When the Pastor leans you back and places you under the water...this symbolizes the death and burial of Jesus.

(Use your hands to show the standing straight and then leaning back)

Then when the Pastor lifts you back up out of the water...it symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus.

(Use your hands to demonstrate rising from the water)

Makes sense doesn’t it?

Jesus was obedient to God in dying for the sins of the world.

Baptism is a demonstration of our obedience to Jesus.

Jesus told us in the Bible to be baptized.

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism identifies us with Jesus.

When we are baptized...it shows everyone that we belong to Him...that we have asked Jesus to come into our heart.

Baptism does NOT get you into heaven.

It is simply an act of obedience.

If we have asked Jesus to come into our hearts...to be our Lord and Savior...then we need to be obedient to His Word.

Believing that Jesus died for your sins...confessing your sins and asking for forgiveness...is what opens the doors to heaven for you.

Baptism is simply being obedient to Jesus...and sharing your decision with the church, your family...and your friends.

Baptism also identifies us with the church...not just the people in this building...but all Christians...God's family...all other Christians.

Some children...even some adults...are scared of being placed under water... and that's okay...and God understands.

When the time is right...God will remove that fear...or when you are ready to tackle that fear...you can be baptized then.

Some children...do not ask Jesus to come into their hearts...because they are scared of being baptized. Don't let being baptized prevent you from asking Jesus into your heart.

If you do not confess your sins and ask Jesus into your heart...you will not go to heaven when you die.

Accept Jesus first...and then get baptized when you are ready.

YOU get to choose when you are ready...no one else!

Some people think that getting baptized means that they will go to heaven...and that is not true.

Simply being baptized without accepting Christ...will not get you into heaven.

You must repent of your sins and ask for forgiveness in order to go to heaven...there is no other way!

Baptism is done AFTER you accept Christ.

It's a time to celebration with all of our family and friends.

It's a time to say "Hey, look everyone...I have asked Jesus into my heart...and I want to share the good news with my family and friends...I want to celebrate because I am now part of God's family."

Now...let's go get drenched with water!!!